

ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Volume 12, December 2010

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First High-Tech American Cultural Center

U.S. Embassy Launches @america

Early this month, @america, the world's first American high-tech outreach center was opened in Jakarta at Pacific Place Mall. At the opening, Judith A. McHale, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, noted



that America's engagement with the world is one based on mutual respect, interests, and collective action. .

@america was developed by the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, in

collaboration with Indonesian and American partners, to expand engagement between young Indonesians and young Americans. @america is a place where they can learn from, listen to, and respect one another. PT Ganesha Aggies Jaya is the Indonesian firm contracted to design and manage the @america venue.

Visitors of @america will experiment with touch-screen monitors, plaques, and tablet computers to access information about the diversity, culture, education, politics, and history of the United States, while sharing these same aspects of Indonesia with an American audience. Indonesian "E-guides" will personalize the center by assisting visitors to Explore, Experience, and Express at @america.

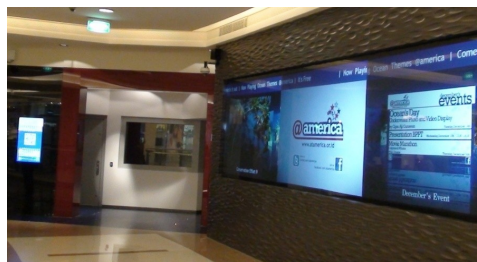
During his November visit to Indonesia, President Obama stated that the United States and Indonesia are forging an even stronger relationship and deepening partnerships and @america is the latest example of the grow-

ing partnership between our two nations.

Visit @america

@america is located at Pacific Place Mall 3rd Floor #325; Jl. Jendral Sudirman Kav. 52-53; Kebayoran Baru; Central Jakarta, 12190. @america is open 365 days a year, including holidays, from 10AM to 9PM..

@america facility is open to the public with no admission fee. Participation in and use of the facility is open to everyone and completely free of charge.



If you are not in Jakarta, you can visit the virtual world of @america online at: www.atamerica.or.id. Videos and podcasts of @america events will be posted and archived on the website. Browse through @america slide shows, videos and picture galleries. If you choose to be a member of the @america website community, you have the opportunity to influence the types of programs and activities at the @america center; and, make friends with others who have similar interests.

Visit @america website for more details and programs info at:

<http://www.atamerica.or.id>

About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

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ARTICLE ALERT

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

1. Bremmer, Ian. **DEMOCRACY IN THE CYBERSPACE: WHAT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAN AND CANNOT DO** (Foreign Affairs. New York: Nov/Dec 2010. Vol. 89, Iss. 6; pg. 86)

A favorite view of the Internet holds that the democratization of communications will bring about the democratization of the world. In fact, the relationship between cyberspace and political liberalization is far more complex. Although the Internet may help erode authoritarian power over time, for now, its impact on international politics is not so easy to predict.

2. Levi, Michael. **GLOBALIZING THE ENERGY REVOLUTION: HOW A REALLY WIN THE CLEAN-ENERGY RACE** (Foreign Affairs. New York: Nov/Dec 2010. Vol. 89, Iss. 6; pg. 111)

The odds that the world will face catastrophic climate change are increasing, and a massive drive to develop cheaper clean-energy sources is necessary. Instead of viewing the clean-energy race as a zero-sum game, governments must work together to promote cross-border innovation and protect intellectual property rights. Only by enlarging clean-energy markets can everyone benefit.

3. Lohrmann, Dan. **5 REASONS CYBERSECURITY SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY** (Governing, December 2010)

Ever since Internet usage started taking off in the 1990s, elected officials have pushed for more efficiency in delivering services to citizens via the Web. After more than a decade of technological innovation, governments now offer extensive online capabilities in every state — most available 24x7x365. What's clear is that citizens like government websites. According to the 2010 Pew Internet and American Life survey, "Fully 82 percent of Internet users (representing 61 percent of all American adults) looked for information or completed a transaction on a government websites." Unfortunately, cyber crime is growing faster than e-government. Could our significant investments in information, communications and technology improvements be derailed?

4. Walton, Mary. **INVESTIGATIVE SHORTFALL** (American Journalism Review; Fall 2010, Vol. 32 Issue 3, p18-30)

The article discusses the decline in investigative reporting in mainstream U.S. journalism, and the increasing number of non-profit news outlets dedicated to trying to bring it back. The importance of investigative journalism for policing corruption and maintaining government accountability is discussed, as are a number of nonprofit investigative enterprises. Among these are ProPublica in New York, the Center for Public Integrity in Washington D.C., and the Center for Investigative Reporting in California.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

5. Gelb, Leslie H. **GDP NOW MATTERS THAN FOREC: A U.S. FOREIGN POLICY FOR THE AGE OF ECONOMIC POWER** (Foreign Affairs. New York: Nov/Dec 2010. Vol. 89, Iss. 6; pg. 35)

Most nations have adjusted their foreign policies to focus on economic security, but the United States has not. Washington still thinks of its security in traditional military terms and responds to threats with military means. Today's leaders should adapt to an economic-centric world and look to Presidents Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower for guidance.

6. Heinberg, Richard. **THE END OF GROWTH** (MuseLetter No. 222, November 2010)

Heinberg contends that the economic crisis that began in 2007-2008 is not simply another cyclical recession, but represents a permanent break with past decades -- the world is now colliding with fundamental barriers to ongoing

economic expansion, namely, the depletion of resources such as fossil fuels and minerals, the proliferation of environmental impacts related to their exploitation and use, and the inability of financial systems geared to never-ending growth to adjust to resource scarcity and to service the mountain of debt in the context of a shrinking economy. Even fast-growing economies such as China may continue to grow for a while longer, but will inevitably reach a ceiling dictated by shrinking natural resources. Heinberg maintains that humanity has to develop a desirable "new normal" that fits with constraints imposed by depleting resources, otherwise "we will create by default a much less desirable 'new normal' whose emergence we are already beginning to see." Adapted from a book set for publication in 2011; currently available online at <http://richardheinberg.com/222-the-end-of-growth>

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

7. Clinton, Hillary Rodham. **LEADING THROUGH CIVILIAN POWER: REDEFINING AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT** (Foreign Affairs. New York: Nov/Dec 2010. Vol. 89, Iss. 6; pg.13)

To meet the range of challenges facing the United States and the world—from violent extremism to global recession—Washington will have to strengthen and amplify its civilian power abroad. Diplomacy and development must work in tandem, offering countries the support to craft their own solutions, while addressing the needs of citizens and governments alike.

8. Krasner, Stephen D. **AN ORIENTING PRINCIPLE FOR FOREIGN POLICY** (Policy Review. Washington: Oct/Nov 2010. , Iss. 163; pg. 3)

Only policy makers in great-power nations can aspire to realize grand strategies. They rarely succeed. In the contemporary international environment, coherence is more likely to be achieved by aiming at something more modest, a principle around which foreign policy might be oriented. Responsible sovereignty is the most promising candidate. Responsible sovereignty focuses on the need to create states capable of governing effectively within their own borders and to realizing, where possible, mutually beneficial bargains with regard to global public goods. Irresponsible sovereigns and failing states threaten the well-being of their own populations and the security, domestic norms, and authority structures of even the world's most powerful countries. There is no alternative to responsible sovereigns; no regional much less global authority structure can replace the state.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

9. McCurry, Stephanie. **THE CONFEDERACY: AMERICA'S WORST IDEA** (American History, December 2010, pp. 28-35)

In December America will mark a unique and largely embarrassing anniversary: 150 years ago a group of South Carolina politicians called a convention of “the people” and voted themselves out of the Union. Within weeks, six more states in the Deep South joined them and the United States was brought to the brink of war. The secessionist states hazarded all: their own future and that of their children and their children's children: slavery itself, on which the bulk of their wealth depended; and the fourth largest economy in the world. On this 150th anniversary of Civil War, can America admit the truth about why the South lost?

10. Rives, Karin. **DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS** (America.gov, December 20, 2010).



Why cut down a perfectly healthy tree and adorn it with glitter and decorations only to throw it out a few weeks later? Why waste all that paper on gifts and cards? In this

climate-change conscious world, there is now something called a holiday carbon footprint. One British study found that households generate an additional 650 kilos of carbon dioxide during Christmas.

A movement is on in the U.S to celebrate the winter holidays, as shown at the White House, with less waste and an eye to the environment. Demand for eco friendly gifts is up.

Full text is available online at:

<http://www.america.gov/st/energy->

[eng-](http://www.america.gov/st/energy-)

[lish/2010/December/20101220150609nirak0.768429.html#ixzz18ilzbxiv](http://www.america.gov/st/energy-)

11. Sproles, Claudene. **GOVERNMENT INFORMATION: KEY ONLINE AND PRINT RESOURCES** (Choice, vol. 47, AP Image no. 12, August 2010, pp. 2231-2241)

At some point, students, researchers and the general public will encounter government information, whether it be income-tax forms, Social Security applications or Census Bureau statistics. In the past decade, the format and distribution of such information has changed; many print publications, including standard reference sources, have ceased altogether, or they are now issued in conjunction with their electronic version. The main U.S. government site was GPO Access, created in 1994 by the Government Printing Office (GPO), to provide government electronic information but in 2009, GPO released Federal Digital System (FDsys), with an enhanced digital content management system. This essay attempts to locate some of the most common government information sources.

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E-Journal

() Media Law Handbook

NEW E-JOURNAL

Media Law Handbook

What are the privileges and responsibilities of a free press? In Media Law Handbook, Professor Jane Kirtley, Silha Professor of Media Ethics and Law at the University of Minnesota, explores how free societies answer this question.

Available online at <http://www.america.gov/publications/books-content/media-law-handbook.html>

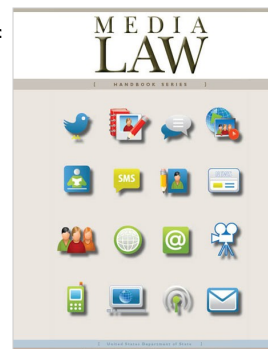
MORE RESOURCES:

Handbook of Independent Journalism

<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/handbook-of-independent-journalism.html>

A Responsible Press Office: An Insiders Guide

http://www.america.gov/publications/books/resp_press.html



Based on mutual respect and shared values, the US Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region.